



WINTER 2018 DEVOTIONAL
WEEK 2: February 4th - February 10th

goodhope.org

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“Scripture Praying”

Communication is essential to growth of any relationship. How much more so in the greatest and most important relationship of all, our relationship with our heavenly Father. Prayer is simply talking to God; the sincere desire of the soul to commune with God.

Scripture Praying places focus squarely on our heavenly Father and His promises. It makes us more biblical in our prayers. What could be more appropriate than using God’s Word as a base to interact with Him? This assures that our communication is successful and honors Him. Jesus says, “*If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you*” (John 15:7, NASB). Scripture Praying will cause us to grow in our knowledge and appreciation of God, as He delights in answering prayers based on His Word.

So, for this Winter Sermon series on prayer, please join us in the daily prayer devotional dedicated to **Scripture Praying**, and experience what prayer can do.

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Prayer of Worship and Adoration

²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. ²⁹He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. ³⁰Even youths grow tired and weary, and

*young men stumble and fall; ³¹but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. **Isaiah 40:28-31 (NIV)***

Dear Father, I worship You, the everlasting God, the Creator. You spoke the world into being. You set the stars in place and call them each by name. Thank you Lord that You are so not like fragile man.

Continue these thoughts with a personal prayer of worship to our Lord . . .

Monday, February 5, 2018

Prayer for Unbelievers

*¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life . . . ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day . . . ⁸For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, ⁹not by works, so that no one can boast. **John 3:16; 6:44; Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)***

Father, You say in Your Word that no one can come to Christ unless You draw him; no one can come, unless You enable him. Help (*name someone you know that has not accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior*) to come. Draw them; enable them.

You have said that everyone who believes in Your Son, Jesus Christ, may have eternal life. Help (*name*) to believe. Help (*name*) to believe that You loved the world so much, that you gave Your only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Help them to believe that Jesus died for them personally. By Your grace, give them the gift of faith that they can be saved.

Continue these thoughts with a personal prayer . . .

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

Prayer for Spiritual Growth and Maturity

¹ *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty . . .* ¹⁴ *“Because he loves me,” says the LORD, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.* ¹⁵ *He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.* ¹⁶ *With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation.”* **Psalm 91: 1, 14-16 (NIV)**

Father, I pray that You would show me how to live in Your presence. Show me how to turn to You constantly as I move through the day, silently thanking You, praising You, asking You for Your help and guidance. Help me to realize that I can live in Your presence with thoughts and prayers whenever I have a free moment. Then, Lord, help me to choose every day to live in Your presence, to choose to love You, to acknowledge You, to bring every need to You in prayer.

Continue these thoughts with a personal prayer . . .

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Prayer for Persecuted Christians

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. **Ephesians 6:18 (NIV)**

Afghanistan – Because Afghanistan is an Islamic state by constitution; other religions such as Christianity are seen as alien. As a result, government officials, ethnic group leaders, religious officials and citizens are hostile towards adherents of these religions. To further complicate matters, the tribal community in the country has even more power than the state, meaning that individuals who become Christians are heavily pressured to convert back to Islam. Family members, in particular, will do everything in their power to bring these Christian converts back to Islam or to exact atonement for the shame brought upon their family.

Because all Christians in Afghanistan are essentially converts, they are unable to express their faith, even in private. In many cases, upon being discovered, these converts are considered insane for leaving Islam. If they cannot be convinced to return to their former faith, they are sometimes committed to psychiatric institutions. Others experience loss of personal property and businesses, beatings and even death at the hands of their own family members and communities. Knowing this, believers risk everything when telling others about Christ, also endangering those they witness to.

Pray using the following Prayer Points:

- Pray for the courage and protection of the Christian converts from Islam, as they face strong pressure from family, friends, and neighbors to recant their Christian faith. Depending on the family, some even fear for their lives. Living openly as a Christian is impossible.
- Pray for stability and peace in the country and in the minds and hearts of Christians living in Afghanistan. The small number of Christian converts in the country must remain in hiding. The increasing level of violence creates a general sense of insecurity and there are no signs of improvement in the foreseeable future.

Thursday, February 8, 2018

Prayer for Our Government Leaders

¹ I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone, ² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. **1 Timothy 2:104 (NIV)**

Father, in obedience to Your Word, I pray for our local, state, and national leaders. I ask that You would grant them wisdom, discernment, and hearts that are open to Your leading. I pray that they would understand that they are

accountable for their time in office being characterized by righteousness, justice, peace, equality, integrity, and helping those who can't help themselves.

Where there is divisiveness, I pray for unity. Where there is hatred, I pray for love. Where there is pride, I pray for humility. Where there is dishonesty, I pray for truth and integrity. Where there are policies and platforms that don't conform to biblical ethics, I pray for Your transforming power.

I pray that they would be surrounded by godly counsel as they make decisions that affect peoples' lives. And most of all, Lord, I pray that our leadership would personally know You and the salvation found through faith in Jesus Christ, alone.

Continue these thoughts with a personal prayer about our government leaders and elected officials, local, state, and national . . .

Friday, February 9, 2018

Prayer of Those Facing Trials

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. **John 17:3 (NIV)**

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." **Matthew 22:37 (NIV)**

Saturday, February 10, 2018

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. **Romans 8:28 (NIV)***

*The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. **1 Peter 4:7 (NIV)***

*For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil. **1 Peter 3:12 (NIV)***

For a few moments, think about someone you know who is facing difficult situations and circumstances, whether physical, emotional, relational, spiritual, or financial.

Dear Lord, I pray for (*the specific names*), that in this time of difficult situations and circumstances, that You would help them to know You better and love You more than ever before. Keep their love strong, for when they love You and are called according to Your purposes, You will work all things together for their good.

Help them to trust in Your faithfulness, to know and experience You as One who will never leave them or forsake them, no matter what the circumstances seem. In the midst of this hard time, help them to think clearly so they can pray. Enable them to make right choices. Help them to live in obedience, for if they do, You promise that Your eyes will be on them, and You will listen to their prayers.

Continue this thought with a personal prayer . . .

Prayer of Surrender

*And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit. **Ephesians 5:18 (ESV)***

*²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. **Ephesians 4:22-24 (ESV)***

*⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing . . . ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. **John 15:5, 7-8 (ESV)***

Father, I offer this prayer of surrender to You. You command me to be filled with the Spirit; but how can I, if I'm so full of self? I surrender my old self and put on the new self. I come as an empty branch to the true Vine, and ask You to fill me with Your Spirit, so that I can experience, moment by moment, the fruit of the Spirit, the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control, all for Your glory.

Continue this thought with a personal prayer of surrender . . .